

**THORPE,  
NORTH &  
WESTERN L.L.P.**  
SINCE 1979  
THE TEAM APPROACH TO PREMIER PERFORMANCE

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW  
PATENTS, TRADEMARKS,  
COPYRIGHTS, UNFAIR  
COMPETITION AND  
RELATED MATTERS



U.S. PATENT APPLICATION NO. 09/617,376  
SALT LAKE AREA OFFICE  
8180 SOUTH 700 EAST, SUITE 200  
SANDY, UTAH 84070-0562  
801.566.6633  
801.566.0750 FAX  
PATLAW@TNW.COM  
WWW.TNW.COM  
LAS VEGAS AREA OFFICE  
OF COUNSEL: NEIL J. BELLER †  
2345 REDROCK STREET, SUITE 310  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89012  
702.368.7767  
† ADMITTED IN NEVADA

VAUGHN W. NORTH\*  
M. WAYNE WESTERN\*  
MICHAEL W. STARKWEATHER\*  
CLIFTON W. THOMPSON\*  
GARRON M. HOBSON\*  
PETER M. DE JONGE  
WEILI CHENG, PH.D.\*  
DAVID R. MCKINNEY, PE.\*  
STEVE M. PERRY\*  
GARY P. OAKESON\*  
DAVID W. OSBORNE\*  
CALVIN E. THORPE  
(1939-1999)

\*REGISTERED PATENT ATTORNEYS

**RECEIVED**

OCT 20 2000

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**TRANSMITTAL FOR INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT:**  
**BEFORE PAYMENT OF ISSUE FEE**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 is an Information Disclosure Statement.

Enclosed also are the following designated documents, as required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98:

- ☒ Form PTO-1449 list of 24 references submitted for consideration.
- ☒ Legible copies of the listed references or their relevant portions.
- ☐ All English translations of each non-English reference, if any, within the possession, custody, control or availability of anyone designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(c)).

The following are included within the Information Disclosure Statement if applicable and as required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98:

- ☐ Concise explanation of relevance of each reference not in English and unaccompanied by an English translation.

- ☐ Statement that certain listed references not enclosed are substantially cumulative of an enclosed reference.
- ☒ Statement that certain listed references not enclosed were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in the identified prior application which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

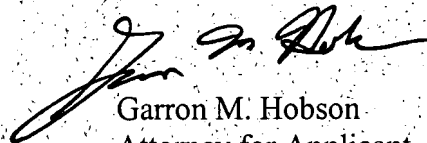
In order to secure consideration of the items designated above, one or more of the following, if required, is also enclosed:

- ☐ Promptness Certification.
- ☐ Check No.        in the amount of \$ (amount in § 1.17(p)) constituting the submission fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
- ☐ Petition for Consideration and Check No.        in the amount of \$(amount in § 1.17(i)(1)) constituting the petition fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i)(1).

In the event that 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) applies and the Examiner is not satisfied that the Promptness Certification meets the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), or in any other event remediable by a fee, please credit any over payment or charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 20-0100 of the undersigned.

Dated this 16 day of Oct, 2000.

Respectfully submitted,



Garron M. Hobson  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 41,073

THORPE, NORTH & WESTERN, L.L.P.  
P.O. Box 1219  
Sandy, UT 84091-1219  
Telephone (801) 566-6633

GMH/ta